
APPENDIX

APPENDIX. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Air Force Satellite Communications System (AFSATCOM): A satellite communications system designed for Air Force units with nuclear missions. The satellite component consists of secondary packages aboard other host satellites.

Alternate National Military Command Center (ANMCC): A command center buried in a mountain at Ft. Ritchie, Maryland, about six miles from Camp David.

Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS): Large radars first deployed in the early 1960s to detect and track Soviet missiles attacking over the North Pole region.

Battle Management: A concept referring to expanded direct control over nuclear forces, permitting commanders to adapt response plans during an attack.

Countervailing Strategy: A label coined by former Secretary of Defense Harold Brown, referring to a new strategy for deterrence which emphasizes a broader range of contingencies and responses than prompt, large-scale retaliation.

Dual Phenomenology: A formal DoD policy requiring two independent means and systems to detect and verify a nuclear attack. The second source would serve to verify warning information from the first.

E-4A/B: The military designation for specially fitted Boeing 747 aircraft designed as flying command posts. The letters designate sequentially improved versions.

EC-135: The military designation for specially fitted Boeing 707 aircraft designed as flying command posts. Some EC-135s can launch intercontinental ballistic missiles by remote control.

Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP): An intense burst of electromagnetic energy created as a side effect by a nuclear explosion. EMP induces currents and voltages in electronic components that can disrupt and even destroy the equipment.

Emergency Action Message (EAM): Though generally referring to a category of urgent messages from commanders to deployed forces, EAM is often used as a short-hand expression for a specially coded nuclear attack directive.

Fleet Satellite Communications System (FLTSATCOM): A satellite communications system for the Navy. The satellites themselves carry AFSATCOM packages as secondary loads.

FPS-85: A large phased-array radar located at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. Originally fielded in conjunction with early space-tracking efforts, the radar has since been converted for early-warning detection missions.

FSS-7: Radars fielded for the first-generation SLBM warning and detection system. Though some are still in service, these radars have been superseded by PAVE PAWS.

Ground-Mobile Command Post (GMCP): An experimental development project designed to field and test a specially equipped truck that would function as a nuclear forces command center in times of emergency.

ICBM: Intercontinental ballistic missile.

Integrated Operational Nuclear Detonation (NUDET) Detection System (IONDS): A system of satellite packages and ground receiver stations designed to detect, locate, and measure nuclear bursts for both peacetime and wartime operations.

Launch Under Attack: A retaliatory response option under which a President could direct nuclear retaliation strikes by U.S. forces against an attacker solely on the basis of warning information.

Looking Glass: The code name for a continuously airborne command-post fleet that has been operated by the Strategic Air Command (SAC) for the past 20 years.

Mobile Ground Terminal (MGT): Truck-mounted antennae and satellite terminals designed to receive early-warning information from satellites.

Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD): Label of widely held concept of deterrence in the 1960s, featuring threats of prompt, large-scale retaliation on economic and industrial centers as a means to deter an attack.

National Command Authorities (NCA): The President and Secretary of Defense jointly serving as the supreme civilian commanders of nuclear and conventional U.S. forces.

National Emergency Airborne Command Post (NEACP): An E-4 aircraft specially equipped and staffed for instantaneous operations as a national command post.

National Military Command Center (NMCC): A special facility in the Pentagon staffed continuously to receive and evaluate warning information, link together force commanders and the NCA, and execute national directives.

NAVSTAR/Global Positioning System (GPS): Currently under advanced development, NAVSTAR would consist of a network of satellites each broadcasting precise time and location information. Receivers could use this data to calculate extremely precise location coordinates and speeds. NAVSTAR would be a host satellite for the IONDS system.

PAVE PAWS: The acronym referring to a new system of phased-array radars designed to detect attacking SLBMs.

Perimeter Acquisition Radar Characterization System (PARCS): A large phased-array radar, initially built for the Safeguard ABM system fielded in North Dakota, but since converted for early-warning missions.

Post Attack Command and Control System (PACCS): A fleet of EC-135 command-post aircraft operated by SAC. PACCS aircraft link the NEACP to Looking Glass, and in turn to other EC-135s, some of which can launch Minuteman ICBMs by remote control.

Presidential Directive 59 (PD-59): A presidential memorandum of the Carter Administration adopting the countervailing strategy outlined by Secretary of Defense Harold Brown and directing appropriate investment and contingency planning to carry it out.

Satellite Early Warning System: A satellite system that detects the launch of ICBMs and SLBMs by monitoring the infrared radiation emitted from missile boosters when launched.

Single-Channel Transponder (SCT): A simple communications package placed aboard satellites as secondary payloads. An SCT

would immediately rebroadcast any message it receives that is properly coded.

SLBM: Submarine-launched ballistic missile.

STRATSAT: The acronym for a satellite proposed by the Air Force to succeed existing AFSATCOM satellite packages.

Survivable Launch Satellite System: A demonstration program designed to launch and test a simple communications satellite from a launcher system likely to survive a Soviet attack, such as patrolling submarines.

TACAMO: An acronym (Take Charge and Move Out) for a fleet of modified C-130 cargo transport aircraft, equipped and operated by the Navy to relay radio messages to submerged submarines.



